Study into suitability om Metkem Poly-Silicon

3220. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Departments of Electronics and Non-conventional Sources of Energy have finalised their reports regarding suitability of Metkem poly-silicon made in India for solar cells and electronic applications; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Representations from states opposing legislation under article 249 ..

3221. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question 425 on 6th November, 1986 and to state:

(a) whether Government have since received representations from certain State Governments and other opposing legislation pursuance of the resolution under article 249 of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have received references from the State Governments of Punjab and Tripura in this regard. It will not, how, even be in the public interest to give the details.

Introduction of computerisation ..

3222. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 336 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th November, 1986 and state what is the number of additional posts created for management of computer terminals in those Ministries|Departments in which computerisation has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The number of persons employed (February, 1986) for management of Computer Terminals in Government Ministries|Departments has been 2918 as per the information received from various Ministries/Department.

Encouragement to Use of Moringa Plant

3223. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Moringa, a native Indian plant is being neglected here but is being increasingly used outside India as a medicinal plant, water-purifier oil source, spice, insecticide etc.;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage use of this plant in the country; and

(c) whether any studies and development work has been conducted on this species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Moringa is a native of India and is widely cultivated in our country. It is also reported to have been introduced in other countries for various uses.

(b) and (c) In view of the fact that the species is widely cultivated by individuals and its regeneration techniques are well-known, there is no immediate need to conduct studies on its propagation.